



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW SHINGLES VACCINE

What is the name of the new shingles vaccine?

The new vaccine is Shingrix, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline.

When was it approved for use?

Shingrix was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in mid-October and then approved by the CDC's advisory panel (ACIP) later in the month.

How is it different from the older shingles vaccine, Zostavax?

- Zostavax is a live viral vaccine; Shingrix not a live viral vaccine. It is an inactivated (subunit) vaccine.
- Shingrix will require a two-dose series, with a second dose administered 2 – 6 months after the first dose.
- Studies have shown that Shingrix is more effective than Zostavax at preventing shingles.

When will Shingrix be available?

It is likely that Shingrix will be available by early December 2017.

Will my health insurance plan cover Shingrix?

Most health insurance plans will cover Shingrix, but probably not before the spring of 2018.

If I received Zostavax, will I need to be vaccinated with Shingrix?

We are waiting for final recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its advisory panel has recommended re-vaccination with Shingrix for those who have received Zostavax.

What age groups will be eligible to receive Shingrix?

Shingrix was approved by the FDA for use in adults aged 50 and older. This was also true of Zostavax. However, the CDC recommended Zostavax only for adults aged 60 and older. The CDC has not yet issued its age cutoff recommendation for Shingrix.

We will update this information as more details become available.